

Farm Workers Strike

2 Additional Growers

Of California Lettuce

EL CENTRO, Calif., Feb. 9 (UPI) — Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers union expanded its strike in the Imperial Valley lettuce fields today to two more growers.

The latest targets of the three-week strike were Bruce Church Inc., one of the nation's largest lettuce producers, and the Admiral Packing Company.

Another 1,150 U.F.W. members joined the strike, bringing to 4,200 the number of workers who have walked off their jobs in the fields of 10 of the 28 growers who produce nearly all of the nation's iceberg lettuce.

Herbert A. Fleming, co-owner of Admiral Packing, charged that a caravan of U.F.W. trucks pulled up in front of his fields and threatened 150 of his workers if they failed to join the walkout. There was no independent verification of the allegation.

Advisor to State Officials

Mr. Fleming is president of the state Board of Food and Agriculture, a committee that advises the Governor and state Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, Lieut. Richard Wilson of the Imperial County Sheriff's Department said that at least seven arrests were reported on both sides of the dispute.

The most serious involved rock-throwing, brandishing a weapon — a pipe — and assault with a deadly weapon, Lieut. Wilson said.

Bargaining talks aimed at reaching a new industrywide pact for 28 growers in the Imperial and Salinas valleys and 16,000 U.F.W. members were being held in El Centro, but no progress has been reported.

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